

BANTHA TRACKS

NEWSLETTER OF THE OFFICIAL **STAR WARS** FAN CLUB

PRE-PRODUCTION *PART II*

What phase of pre-production are you involved with now?

Right now we're storyboarding the main action sequences. For the first time we're boarding both the live action and special effects together. Normally, we only board the special effects, while artists in England work on the live action, but the action sequences in JEDI are so very complex, with lots of intercutting between effects and live action, that we're boarding them simultaneously.

What are storyboards?

In the most basic sense, a storyboard is a drawing, or series of drawings that illustrates a shot or scene in a film. We do two kinds of storyboards at ILM during pre-production, and they serve distinct purposes. First, one set of storyboards is done that is used to lay the story out and give a sense of the continuity. This set includes live action and effects and is done very roughly at first. As the sequences become more defined, the boards are redrawn tighter and larger. Then the boards within that sequence which contain any kind of special effect will be redrawn in a larger format and mounted on an information sheet that has spaces for data, such as a list of elements, animation instructions, frame count and process plate number.

How does a typical storyboard session go?

It depends. For JEDI, we tried something different. We knew Richard Marquand would have to leave for England before the storyboards were finished, and we wanted to get as much of his input as possible. We took the two major action sequences, (Nilo Rodis-Jamero boarded one, I boarded the other) and laid out a good basic framework of storyboards. We went through stacks of paper and gallons of coffee. We locked ourselves in a room for two weeks, had our lunches brought in and calls held. At the end of two weeks, it was all there in very rough form. A lot of the drawings were very small, about the size of postage stamps. Now that Richard is in England, we're refining those sequences with George... adding shots, deleting shots and drawing them up larger, in more detail.

JOE JOHNSTON BIOGRAPHY

Joe Johnston attended California State University Long Beach where he studied Industrial Design, Graphic Design and Illustration. He was the Effects Illustrator and Designer for STAR WARS, the Art Director – Visual Effects for THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK and RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK, and is the Special Effects Art Director for REVENGE OF THE JEDI.

Is the script finished before storyboarding begins? Is that what you work from?

The script is still in treatment form. George has a rough idea of how he wants the sequences to work, but he's very often open to ideas. That's one thing that makes working with George so enjoyable. The script may say, "the Imperial troops attack the Rebel fortress." We'll have a quick meeting, where George will discuss his ideas on how the troops attack the fortress. The artists have suggestions, and George may say, "Well, draw up some ideas, I'll get back to you." It's this freedom to contribute ideas that keeps storyboarding exciting. Even major story points will change if someone else comes up with a workable idea. Before shooting starts, every sequence will be so well defined that the live action crews and our effects crews can use the boards as a "bible" for shooting the film. Some sequences undergo several revisions before a final version goes into the book. But, as George has reminded us, "paper is cheaper than film."

Are all films storyboarded as extensively as George Lucas'?

It really depends on the director. Some directors like to board every shot and others have only key scenes boarded, with written descriptions to explain the rest. There are directors who don't use storyboards at all. George likes to tell the story with pictures. The boards are often a lot like a comic book. Instead of drawing every shot, each drawing conveys a particular idea and nothing is drawn unless it's necessary to keep the story moving. A film like JEDI couldn't be made without storyboards, because of the way the story is interwoven with special effects that won't even be shot until most of the live action is completed.

Are storyboards a recent innovation?

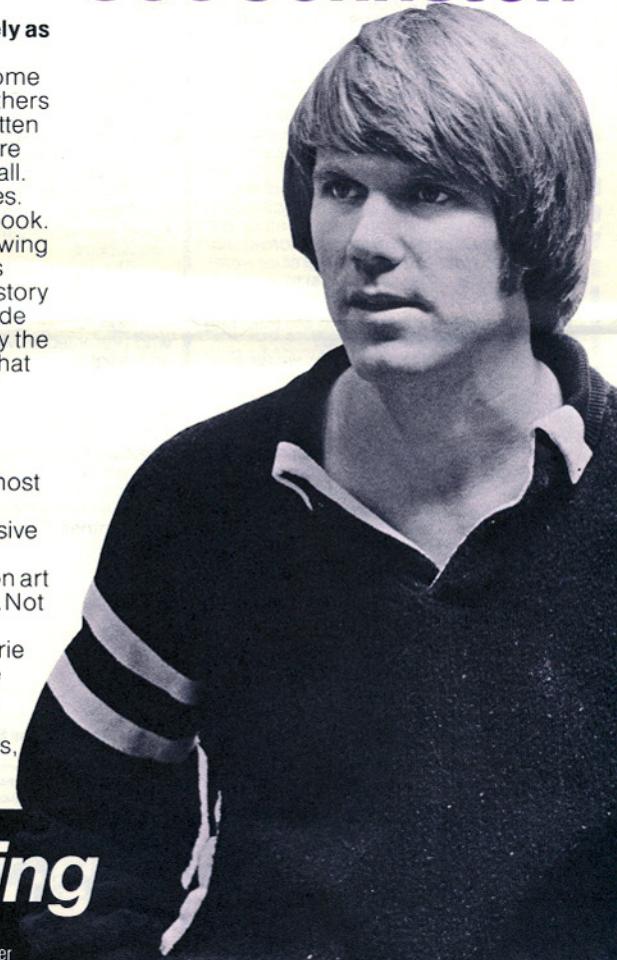
Storyboards have been around almost as long as films have. Over the years storyboards have evolved into an extensive visual language. There are vaults in Hollywood full of fantastic pre-production art that the public will probably never see... Not just storyboards but beautiful full-color illustrations like the stuff Ralph McQuarrie does. Ralph is better at inspiring people through his art than anyone I know. His paintings are more than just paintings, they tell a story, they illustrate his designs, they give everyone at Lucasfilm something to shoot for.

Do the designs of all the creatures and hardware evolve during the storyboarding phase or is that something that's done separately?

For the most part, the designs are decided on before storyboarding begins. The design phase is a lot of fun, especially in the early stages because we can do just about anything we want. We don't like to worry too much in the beginning whether or not something will work. George prefers to first settle on a good design and then try to come as close as possible, instead of setting limitations and letting them dictate the design.

That's a little more expensive, but it's the willingness to spend a little more to execute a better design that helps set our films apart from lesser productions. It all comes down to production values. Norman Reynolds, our production designer, is very good at translating his designs from paper into a set on a stage or on location that does just what it's supposed to do.

Joe Johnston



Storyboarding

photo by Terry Chostner

What can you tell us about REVENGE OF THE JEDI?

Not too much. The story is great. I like it more than EMPIRE or A NEW HOPE. It will resolve a lot of questions raised by the first two films. It's packed with new hardware, new characters, new environments, as always. There's a battle in JEDI that A NEW HOPE and EMPIRE were just warm-ups for.



Jedi 'postage stamp' storyboard.

Were there classes you took on storyboarding? How can someone learn to storyboard?

I'm only beginning to understand storyboards. I don't think there are classes on storyboarding. Probably, the only way to learn is to do them. Like I said before, it's a language. It's more than just a bunch of pictures in a certain order. The ability to draw well is important but it must become secondary. A filmic sense of seeing is important also. You start looking at the world through a lens. I'm working with a very good storyboard artist now by the name of George Jenson. He's made a career of storyboarding and film design, and I feel I'm learning a lot from him. What kind of shot tells the story best? When do you go in for a close-up, or a long shot? It's a pretty satisfying feeling to see a sequence you designed appear intact on the screen.

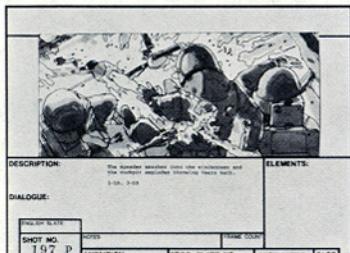
Are storyboards the only form of design done in pre-production?

No, I enjoy modelmaking as a different method of designing. Design drawings leave room for change in the transition from sketches to finished model. During the construction phase of the four-legged walker, Jon Berg and I were playing around with some of the parts...legs and feet and heads, and I thought, "Hey, wouldn't a two-legged version of this thing be kinda neat?" Well, Jon was up to his ears in four-legged walkers, so I stuck the two-legged walker together from model kit parts. It was solid plastic and everything that looked as if it should move was glued tight. It was interesting but we didn't think anything would come of it. Then George saw it on a shelf and said, "That's neat, put it in the film." Tom St. Amand had to disassemble the plastic walker, build an aluminum substructure for it, and stick the whole thing back together, but it worked. We would've put it into more shots but we just ran out of time. Most of us were working 11 to 12 hour days just to get the scheduled shots done.

Any suggestions for fans who are planning to do the kind of work you do?

Draw. Most of the portfolios we receive in the mail are rejected because the person just can't draw. And don't develop a style too early. I intentionally vary my style when I do designs or storyboards. If nothing else, it keeps the process from getting boring. People can lock themselves into a particular style too soon, because it's easy or seems more natural to them, but it's important to try different ways of drawing, with different tools on different kinds of paper.

When you see a film that works, try to figure out why. Watch the way the shots are put together. Take some film classes, especially for the technical side of filmmaking, which is what I feel I really missed. But then again, working closely with George Lucas is probably the best film school you can go to. JJ, KR, MG



Star Wars y Yo—by Enrique Rivera Vega



WINNERS

Creativity Contest

LITERARY—Judges: Anita Gross and Lisa Kerman, Publishing

Since STAR WARS was released in 1977, and THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK in 1980, Lucasfilm Ltd. has received countless artistic gifts from its fans. To the best of our knowledge, never before in the history of film have any movies sparked such a creative flow of energy from its audience.

The STAR WARS Saga 1981 Creativity Contest was held to officially recognize your artistic abilities and to thank you for sharing your love of the STAR WARS Saga.

The fan club has received over 3,000 entries from around the world. Many of the categories were judged by the appropriate department heads and everyone found the judging to be a lot of fun. Opening the daily packages and mysterious boxes to see the latest entries was a challenge. The most popular category was two-dimensional art—mainly military crafts and portraits of the various characters. The second most popular category was literature—ranging from short 'HAIKU' poems to full length novels. Great ideas and plots—hours of interesting reading! The most popular title was REVENGE OF THE JEDI followed closely by the various versions of THE RESCUE OF HAN SOLO.

The film category included stop-motion, animation, movies, storyboards, SPFX photos and various re-creations of scenes from the STAR WARS saga.

The music category contained songs, sound effects, recitals, lyrics and folksongs.

Three-dimensional art ran the gamut from models, to sculpture, to costumes.

The miscellaneous category stretched from toys, to game parks, to computer, board and video games, windchimes and needlepoint.

The model category was added as a special category to separate it from sculpture. Prizes have been awarded to both.

Special mention goes to those of you who presented us with various challenges and delights.

Most Decorative Packaging: Jeanette Jones, N.Y., James Kennedy, C.A.

Most Difficult Package to Unwrap: Vickie E. Manning, MINN.

The Corellian Smuggling Award: To all of the Canadian entrants who smuggled their entries to the U.S. Postal Service when the Canadian Post Office was on strike.

Most Entries: The Stuben Family, PA.

● MP, MG, KR

"...it's really like comparing apples and oranges, trying to rate a novel against a poem, for instance, or to judge writing ability in such varied age groups. Overall, there is some very interesting and inventive work in these submissions, and Lisa and I were both impressed by the great personal caring and effort that the members put into this contest." — Anita Gross

First

MICHAEL PARKS, Eugene, Oregon, Age 14. *Rebel Reader*—magazine

Second

BARRY W. BARRINGER, New York, New York, Age 19. *Chaos Aboard the Executor*—short story

Third

KATRIENA ROSE-CAROL MYERS, Tolono, Illinois, Age 15. *Mercy Mission*—short story

Fourth

ENRIQUE RIVERA VEGA, Xalapa, Mexico, Age 17. *STAR WARS y Yo* (STAR WARS and Me)—illustrated story

Fifth

DIANN THORNLEY, Hyde Park, Utah, Age 25. *A JEDI KNIGHT IN KING ARTHUR'S COURT*—short story

Sixth

DARLENE M. STAPP, Louisville, Kentucky, Age 37. *A Meeting of Minds*—short story

Seventh

NATALIE FARMER, Salt Lake, Utah, Age 15. *The Solitary Rebel*—short story

Thirteenth

MARGARET E. TOBEY, N. Plainfield, New Jersey, Age 31. *The Traitor*—novel

Ninth

MARK HELSING, Lakefield, Ontario, Canada, Age 10. *The Force Will Be With You*—illustrated story

Eighth

JEFFERY W. LIEBMAN, Walden, New York, Age 16. *In His Eyes*—short story

Tenth

MARK HELSING, Lakefield, Ontario, Canada, Age 10. *The Force Will Be With You*—illustrated story

Eleventh

MARK HELSING, Lakefield, Ontario, Canada, Age 10. *The Force Will Be With You*—illustrated story

Twelfth

MARK HELSING, Lakefield, Ontario, Canada, Age 10. *The Force Will Be With You*—illustrated story

Fourteenth

MARK HELSING, Lakefield, Ontario, Canada, Age 10. *The Force Will Be With You*—illustrated story

Chaos Aboard the Executor—by Barry Barringer

Danny Corrigan was just your typical small town STAR WARS fan. All he wanted to buy were the latest bubble gum cards from THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK. When he couldn't find the cards, the salesperson referred him to the manager, who referred him to the store's supervisor, an Imperial Officer! Everyone kept insisting

Sixth

JEFF LEMOND, Arlington, Texas, Age 10. *Air Show*—short story

Seventh

ANA ARECES, Coral Gables, Florida, Age 20. *The Last Apprentice*—short story

Eighth

MARGARET E. TOBEY, N. Plainfield, New Jersey, Age 31. *The Traitor*—novel

Ninth

DENNIS SERVAIS, Fountain City, Wisconsin, Age 11. *Luke—Darth Vader*—poem

Tenth

MARK HELSING, Lakefield, Ontario, Canada, Age 10. *The Force Will Be With You*—illustrated story

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Mercy Mission—by Katriena Rose-Carol Myers

"I should have known from the moment I first woke up that it was going to be a phenomenally lousy day. I was right in the middle of a wonderfully disgusting dream when something very loud and very insistent tried to beat my door down. I moaned with regret as the dream dissipated, then grunted acknowledgment of the summons and rolled over." General Rieekan's summons was to send Han and Chewie on a mission to Kasada to rescue a small group of Rebels. Everything went fairly well, and the Rebels were on board, but then the nav'puter started to act up and they had to take a side trip to repair it. By the end of the journey Han couldn't decide which payment he valued more: the cold hard cash or the "look Malla had given me" and "the kiss Alona had brushed across my cheek."

Fifth Place Film



FILM—Judges: Fan Club Staff

The film category was expanded to include SPFX photos and set re-creations from *STAR WARS* and *EMPIRE*. The judges looked for unique ideas, attention to detail and the knowledge and use of SPFX in general.

First

JOHN RICHARDSON, Wayne, New Jersey, Age 16. *JEDI RECRUITMENT FILM*.

Second

RICHARD A. KILROY, Los Angeles, California, Age 18. *STAR SNORES*—a film.

Third

DAVID MCCOY, Stockton, California, Age 15. *Luke's Crash on Hoth*—SPFX photo.

Fourth

KATHY SYNOVEC, Long Beach, California, Age 15. *Hoth Base*—set re-creation.

Fifth

JIM JONGSMA, Whitinsville, Massachusetts, Age 18. *STAR WARS*—remake.

Sixth

GLENN COTE, Irvine, California, Age 16. *Walkers on Hoth*—SPFX photo.

Seventh

SUZANNE L. STUBEN, New Kensington, Penn., Age 11. *Hoth Base*—set re-creation.

Eighth

TRACEY LASZLOFFY, Mansfield Depot, Connecticut, Age 13. *EMPIRE STRIKES BACK* Ballet—videotape.

Ninth

BILL RAINY, Springfield, Missouri, Age 15. *The Hunter's Prey*—SW Adventure, slide show.

Tenth

GEORGE VARGA, Madrid, Spain, Age 14. *Battle on Hoth*—set re-creation.

Eleventh

CHRISTOPHER JAMISON, Monroe, New York, Age 15. *Carbon-Freezing Chamber*—set re-creation.

Twelfth

HUGO DERAT GONZALES, Queretaro, Mexico. *Leia Appears*—SPFX photo.

Thirteenth

JANICE ANDERSON, Santa Ana, California, Age 32. *Imperial HQ., Cantina and Rebel Base*—set design.

Fourteenth

MATTHEW STUBEN, New Kensington, Penn., Age 10. *Death Star Trench*—set re-creation.

Fifteenth

CHRIS EGGLESTON, Allentown, Penn., Age 10. *Hoth Base*—set re-creation.

Jedi Recruitment Film,

by John Richardson

In John's stop-motion film, Yoda gives sage advice on what a Jedi student must learn before earning his lightsaber. In the film, Yoda displays the various skills of a Jedi by demonstrating his agility, levitating an X-wing, showing us other people and places, and defeating Darth in a lightsaber duel.

STAR SNORES, by David McCoy

Imagine what it would be like to fall asleep one night and wake up to find yourself and your bed flying through space, to become part of the events of *STAR WARS* and *EMPIRE*. See David dodge the opening titles, X-wings, planets, asteroids, TIE fighters and the Death Star trench. What a nightmare!

STAR WARS, A Remake,

by Jim Jongsma

Using models, props, several friends, and a knowledge of special effects filmmaking Jim has made his version of *STAR WARS*, concentrating on the various key scenes that occurred in the movie.

MUSIC AND SOUND—Judge: Ben Burt, Sound Designer, Fan Club Staff

"I enjoyed the creative efforts of the contestants. The tapes reminded me of what I used to do when I was younger. I judged the special effects tapes on originality, creativity, use of imagination, and most importantly on whether they entertained me. No weight was given to technical merit at all." — Ben Burt

First

DAVID TAKIS, Atlanta, Georgia, Age 12. *STAR WARS Boogie*—filksong

Second

JIM BOB ANDERTON, Marissa, Illinois, Age 13. *STAR WARS Sound Effects*

Third

AARON SKENTZOS, Saginaw, Michigan, Age 13. *Sound Effects*

Fourth

TERRI BLACK, Kirkland, Washington, Age 19. *Satirical Musical Interview*

Fifth

JOEY PARISI, Newport News, Virginia, Age 12. *Imperial Advertising Agency Commercials*

Sixth

MINDI M. REID, Bellevue, Washington, Age 23. *The Cantina Song*—filksong

Seventh

JONATHAN MAURICE BELL, Memphis, Tennessee, Age 10. *Narration of Luke Skywalker's Adventures*

Eighth

SHERI FRANKS, Shiner, Texas, Age 12. *Sound Effects*

Ninth

PAUL MARCHBANKS, Richland, Washington, Age 10. *STAR WARS Theme—piano recital*

Tenth

CINDY BRANDON, Garden Grove, California, Age 14. *Luke and the Force*—filksong

Eleventh

HARRY STAMAS, Nashua, N. Hampshire, Age 17. *Sound Effects*

Twelfth

PAULA K. BISHOP, Georgetown, Delaware, Age 26. *STAR WARS Songbook—filksongs*

Thirteenth

R. CLARK BELL, Tulsa, Oklahoma, Age 14. *Sound Effects and Vocal Imitations*

Fourteenth

TROY ALLISON, Casey, Illinois, Age 10. *Sound Effects*

STAR WARS Sound Effects,

by Jim Bob Anderton

Jim Bob designed eight sound experiences based upon the *STAR WARS* saga, using a slinky toy, a paper towel tube, a trumpet, vocal imitations, hangers and mandibular dexterity to create laser blasts, R2-D2 and C-3PO, the windvanes of Cloud City, Darth's breathing and several scenes from the movies.

Star Wars Boogie

I'm a loyal Star Wars Fan,
Collecting all the toys I can,
Comics, posters, laser blasters,
Starships, puzzles and bowcasters,
All that stuff it's not enough,
My Dad is broke and that's no joke.

My favorite captain is Han Solo,
He is my Galactic Hero,
He's a smuggler mercenary,
His friend Chewbacca is hairy,
Now he's frozen. He's just dozing,
No mistake when he's awake,
He'll get Boba Fett!

By David Takis, 1981

Sound Effects, by Aaron Skentzos

Aaron created various sounds for lasers, lightsabers, hydraulics and engines from everyday household items.

Satirical Musical Interview, by Terri Black

Utilizing key lines from popular songs, Terri Black's fictional reporters interview the various characters about their experiences in the *STAR WARS* saga.

CAPTAIN SOLO—YOU'RE A HERO (to the tune of "My Darlin' Clementine")

Just like lightnin' with a blaster
always ready for a fight;
Saved the Rebels from disaster,
Helped the Princess in her plight.

Like a Jedi with his saber,
Like a Wookiee with his bow,
With the Rebels Solo labored,
Helping more than he could know.

CHORUS:

Captain Solo, Captain Solo—
Party to the Rebel Band...
Though you don't know, you're a hero;
Others help you understand.

It was tough from the beginning,
Luke was there to see you through.
From that point you just kept winning,
With the Rebels your luck grew.

The Alliance gained a good friend,
When you voted to remain.
They assist with things you must tend,
But they're driving you insane!

CHORUS:

Captain Solo, Captain Solo—
Party to the Rebel Band...
Though you don't know, you're a hero;
Others help you understand.

TWO DIMENSIONAL ART Judge—Joe Johnston. Special Effects Art Director

"First of all, we eliminated anything that looked traced, or copied cold without any kind of interpretation. We were unconcerned with skill at this point. We were looking for unique ideas, fresh ways of presenting them, good compositions, non-gimmicky stuff. We were especially attracted by the under ten age category because of the uninhibited quality of many of the pieces. To quote Picasso, 'When I was seven, I could draw like Raphael, but it took until I was 45 before I could draw like I was seven,' or something like that." — Joe Johnston

First

RENATE SODERSTROM, Cary, Illinois, Age 7. *Boba Fett*—watercolor

Second

SCOTT BUTLER, Northpoint, New York, Age 7. *Boba Fett*—pen and pencil

Third

MARK RABBITT, Atheny, Galway, Ireland, Age 17. *One-Sheet concept*—acrylic

Fourth

JOHN PLUMMER, Riverside, Connecticut, Age 14. *Yoda and Luke*—pencil sketch

Fifth

ANNE MARIE SERVILLO, Queens Village, New York, Age 14. *Luke and Darth*—silhouette

Sixth

JIMMY JANSEN, Old Greenwich, Connecticut, Age 25. *Jabba the Hut's Smuggling Operations on Tatooine*—watercolor

Seventh

SCOTT ROBBINS, Statesville, N. Carolina, Age 9. *Jawas*—watercolor

Eighth

MELISSA JORDAN, Moline, Illinois, Age 15. *The Millennium Falcon's Narrow Escape From the Space Slug?*—pencil sketch

Ninth

SIBYLLE MARWITZ, Rhld. West Germany, Age 15. *REVENGE OF THE JEDI*—pencil sketch

Tenth

DAVID KING, Crawley, West Sussex, England, Age 17. *George Lucas Presents*—pen and ink

Eleventh

TED GRAY, Whittier, California, Age 14. *Han Solo on East Landing Platform*—watercolor

Twelfth

JON CALDERAS, Warren, Ohio, Age 14. *Darth Vader's Head*—pen and ink

Thirteenth

NINA RINTALA, Turku, Finland, Age 15. *The Empire!*—mixed medium

Fourteenth

BOB WASILUK, Woodbury, Minnesota, Age 15. *One-Sheet Concept*—pen and ink

Fifteenth

WAYNE C. WARD, Ridgewood, New Jersey, Age 23. *Ben and Vader Battle on the Death Star*—oil



THREE DIMENSIONAL ART—Judges: Mary Still, Wardrobe, Fan Club Staff

In judging the three dimensional art category we looked for pieces that were really special, that showed imagination and nicely realized details, and that the contestant had spent a lot of time in creating.

First

DANIEL J. ABDELLA, Flushing, Michigan, Age 16. Wampa Attack—sculpture

Second

JEFFERY H. GREEN, Colo. Springs, Colorado, Age 17. R2-D2 and C-3PO—models

Third

GEORGE E. ANNTILA, Clarkston, Washington, Age 16. Darth Vader—costume

Fourth

TONY RACCO, Incline, Nevada, Age 18. Bust of Yoda—sculpture

Fifth

JAMES SCIONTI, Waterbury, Connecticut, Age 15. Luke and his Tauntaun—sculpture

Sixth

VICKIE E. MANNING, Nestrand, Minnesota, Age 21. Chewbacca—sculpture

Seventh

KEVIN C. MAYNE, Scottsdale, Arizona, Age 17. Boba Fett—costume

Eighth

TAL SWEET, Pontiac, Michigan, Age 15. Bust of Greedo—sculpture

Ninth

DUANE BONDS, Philadelphia, Penn., Age 33. Lando's Assistant—costume

Tenth

BARRY W. BENECKE, Elmhurst, Illinois, Age 16. Tauntaun—snow sculpture

Eleventh

MARK T. BARR, Mehlville, Missouri, Age 20. Yoda—costume

Twelfth

MADELYN BLAIR, W. Bloomfield, Michigan, Age 14. Blaster—prop

Thirteenth

TOM MARTIN, San Jose, California, Age 18. Chewbacca on a Tauntaun—sculpture

Fourteenth

LORNA L. ANSTRUTHER, Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada, Age 28. Princess Leia—costumes

Fifteenth

JOHN BRINKMAN, Portland, Oregon, Age 14. Luke—sculpture

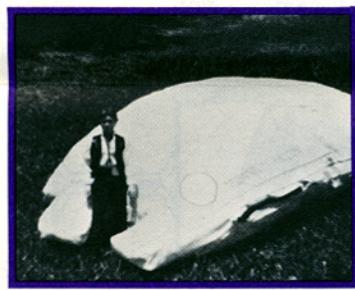


First Place 3-D Art

Fourth Place 3-D Art



Fifth Place 3-D Art



First Place Miscellaneous



Second Place Miscellaneous



Third Place Miscellaneous



Fifth Place Miscellaneous

Fourth Place Miscellaneous

MISCELLANEOUS—Judges: Fan Club Staff

The most difficult category to judge was miscellaneous. Entries were judged on uniqueness alone, taking into account the contestant's age but not necessarily skill or presentation.

First

INELLE VAN EEKHOUTE, San Diego, California, Age 34. Millennium Falcon Pillow—toy

Second

MARLENE KARKOSKA, S. Euclid, Ohio, Age 31. STAR WARS Children's Calendar, Featuring R2-D2

Third

ANA MARIE FERNANDEZ GUTIERREZ, Madrid, Spain, Age 19. Red Squadron Patch Design

Fourth

ELISABETH ZARATE, Montebello, California, Age 14. Windchimes

Fifth

CATHIE LAYTON, Walterboro, S. Carolina, Age 26. The Reunion—an illustrated screenplay

Sixth

DERRICK SOLIS, Philadelphia, Penn., Age 23. Imperial Armored Speeder—new design

Seventh

MICHAEL RAPP, Houston, Texas, Age 5. New Game—Pin the Photon Torpedo on the Death Star

Eighth

DONALD J. CZIPA, Lorain, Ohio, Age 24. You Are There: The Battle on Hoth

Ninth

WENDY IKEGUCHI, Long Beach, California, Age 23. Falcon Flight—stained glass sculpture

Tenth

MARY URHAUSEN, Racine, Wisconsin, Age 32. The Anatomy and Physiology of the Tauntaun

Eleventh

MARK RIPPLINGER, Union, Michigan, Age 20. Millennium Falcon Blueprints

Twelfth

DIANE ROE, Long Beach, California, Age 25. R2-D2 Sequined Shirt

Thirteenth

JACK A. KUSLER, Butte, Montana, Age 26. Luke Skywalker—batik

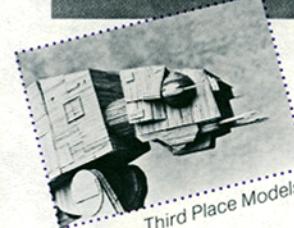
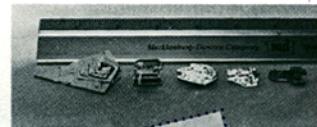
Fourteenth

ANITA HALL, Nashua, New Hampshire, Age 29. Darth and Luke on Cloud City—afghan

Fifteenth

GERALD FRANCIS, Silver Spring, Maryland, Age 17. REVENGE OF THE JEDI—new logo design

Second Place Models



Third Place Models

MODELS—Judges: Lorne Peterson, Model Shop Supervisor, ILM Steve Gawley, Model Shop Foreman, ILM

Lorne and Steve chose scratch-built models and then judged those on presentation, ageing and completeness. Both judges were impressed by contestants who photographed their models outside, creating an illusion of perspective and atmosphere and showing an understanding of special effects filmmaking.

First

BUDDY EPLING, Olathe, Colorado, Age 14. AT-AT Walker and Probot

Second

MARK DANZ, Santa Rosa, California, Age 16. Miniature Models

Third

SANDRA WILLIAMS, Santa Fe, New Mexico, Age 18. AT-AT Walker

Fourth

JAMES SPECHT, Plano, Texas, Age 24. Millennium Falcon Carved from Soap

Fifth

RANDALL COHEN, Philadelphia, Penn., Age 14. Scout Walker

Sixth

ADAM DECK, Bloomfield Hts., Michigan, Age 14. AT-AT Walker

Seventh

ROBBIE ROBINSON, Andover, Maine, Age 16. Scout Walker

Eighth

DALAND DAVIS, Fairfield, California, Age 15. AT-AT Walker

Ninth

JEAN-GUY BOURBONNIERE, Montreal, Canada, Age 15. AT-AT Walker

Tenth

SARAH BAKER, Westport, Maine, Age 15. Star Destroyer and Snowspeeder—Lego

Eleventh

JEFF WOLSHON, Sterling Heights, Michigan, Age 16. Sandcrawler

Twelfth

STEVE KANE, Pullman, Washington, Age 20. Military Crafts

Thirteenth

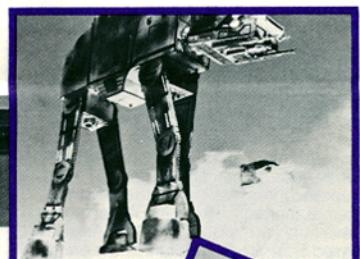
DAMIAN BROUSSARD, Hagerstown, Maryland, Age 16. TIE Fighter

Fourteenth

WALTER AND DANNY STUBEN, New Kensington, Penn., Ages 35, 6. AT-AT Walker and Cloud City

Fifteenth

GLENN MURRAY, W. Mifflin, Penn., Age 19. Skyhopper, T-16



First Place Models



THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK POSTER ALBUM (Vol. I)

Produced especially for the Fan Club. Contains full-color pin-ups and career biographies of the EMPIRE STRIKES BACK stars: Mark Hamill, Harrison Ford, Carrie Fisher, Billy Dee Williams, Anthony Daniels, David Prowse, Peter Mayhew and Kenny Baker. **Price:** \$4.00 postpaid.

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San Rafael, CA 94912

Important Ordering Information for All Customers

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Sizes: (circle your choice)

	Prices:
Small children's 4 5 6 6x	\$24.95 ea. plus P&H
Children's 7 8 10 12 14	\$28.95 ea. plus P&H
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Total Enclosed \$ _____

"VADER IN FLAMES"

Embroidered Patch

Seven Beautiful Colors

A replica of the emblem worn by THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK cast and crew on location in Finse, Norway. (3" x 4 1/2")

Price: \$4.00 postpaid.



STAR WARS: A NEW HOPE

Embroidered Patch

Six Spectacular Colors

Ralph McQuarrie's first design created to symbolize the STAR WARS Saga. Luke Skywalker stands against the planet Yavin. (3 1/2" x 5")

Price: \$4.00 Postpaid

THE ORIGINAL STAR WARS FAN CLUB MEMBERSHIP KIT

Now available to current members. Contains a full-color wall poster, glossy photo; iron-on X-wing and TIE fighter; Skywalker decal and wallet photo; Fan Club embroidered patch, book cover, and membership card. **Price:** \$12.00 plus \$1.50 postage and handling. Canadian orders \$15.00 postpaid. Foreign orders \$17.00 postpaid.



NEWSLETTER BACK ISSUES

Special Compilation Issue—Price: \$2.50 ea. (plus postage and handling)

Includes highlights from issues #1 through #4, originally published in 1978. Complete in one issue, the compilation contains biographical sketches of George Lucas and Gary Kurtz, articles on STAR WARS special effects, an interview with Mark Hamill, a STAR WARS trivia quiz, fan club questions and answers, and more.

Bantha Tracks Back Issues—Price: \$1.00 ea. (plus postage and handling).

#5 Interview with THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK Director Irvin Kershner, Fan Club Cartoon Contest winners, STAR WARS comic strip news, and introduction of Boba Fett.

#6 Interview with Harrison Ford, Japanese influences in STAR WARS, questions and answers.

#7 Interview with Anthony Daniels, introduction of Lando Calrissian, questions and answers.

#8 Interview with George Lucas, preview page of EMPIRE photographs, transcriptions of actors' phone messages.

#9 EMPIRE Preview in Washington, D.C. Hollywood opening of EMPIRE, animating the Tauntaun, fan club member John Rios profile.

#10 EMPIRE International report, STAR WARS costuming, profile of member costumers, "Thank You" Mark Hamill.

#11 Announcement of REVENGE OF THE JEDI, STAR WARS Radio Show, interview with JEDI Producer Howard Kazanjian.

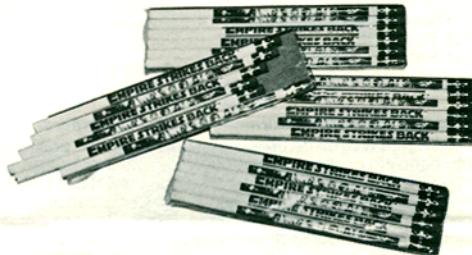
#12 RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK preview-interview with Director Steven Spielberg, Recruiting Contest Winners Profile, Members Artwork feature, JEDI update.

#13 REVENGE OF THE JEDI Pre-Production Part I: Co-producers Jim Bloom and Robert Watts, Selecting a Director — Richard Marquand, NASA Strikes Back, Time Capsule, Profile: Kumi — Japanese Cartoonist.

#14 REVENGE OF THE JEDI Pre-Production Part II: Joe Johnston — Storyboarding, Creativity Contest Winners, Profile: The Los Angeles Filkharmonic & STAR WARS Filksongs.

NEW! "THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK" PENCILS

At your request. Extra EMPIRE kit pencils. Shrink wrapped in packages of six. **Price:** \$2.50 postpaid.



SKYWALKER FATIGUE JACKET

As seen in THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK

A custom-tailored replica in khaki-colored denim fabric. Machine washable, for men, women, and children. The futuristic styling makes this "the jacket of the 80s." SIZES RUN SMALL. **Price:** \$24.95 to \$36.95, according to size (plus postage and handling).

The Los Angeles Filkharmonic

Have you ever wished that John Williams had written words to his great STAR WARS music? Well, many STAR WARS enthusiasts have done just that. Such songs are called 'filksongs'.

Filksongs are similar to folksongs, but organized science fiction fandom of the early thirties adopted the Anglo-Saxon word for folk—folk, to indicate a fellow fan. Anyone can write a filksong; just take any well-known melody—you're not limited to movie themes—and put your own words where there are notes. The simplest STAR WARS filksong uses the tune of the round 'Frere Jacques' (Brother John).

The Round

Are you sleeping? Are you sleeping? Brother John. Brother John. Morning bells are ringing. Morning bells are ringing. Ding, Dang, Dong. Ding, Dang, Dong.

The Filksong

R2-D2, R2-D2, C-3PO, C-3PO, Obi-Wan Kenobi. Obi-Wan Kenobi. Han Solo. Han Solo.

That's all there is to it. A group of people can be coached in three groups, singing it in rounds with a minimum of instructions.

Now that you have a rough idea of what filksongs are, we can introduce you to this issue's member profile—The Los Angeles Filkharmonic—a group of eight STAR WARS fans who write a staggering number of STAR WARS filksongs. From their first viewing of STAR WARS, they were wildly enthusiastic and discovered filksongs provided the perfect creative outlet for that STAR WARS fannish enthusiasm.

How do they write filksongs? Most of their songs start as a clever bit of wording from a joke or comment, mentally scotch-taped onto a well-known set of notes (music). A Filkharmonic will take the idea and fill out the filksong. Some of the filksongs are very funny, or simple, or develop an incomplete point from the movie. New lyrics are shown to the other seven for comments, inclusions and criticisms. Some songs are solo creations, others are written by a team.

Once a song is written, it is staged. Parts are given out by vocal range, clever introductions are written, costumes are designed and constructed when necessary and they practice until they have it down perfectly. Then comes the performance.

The Los Angeles Filkharmonic sings its way into the hearts and ears of fans at science fiction conventions. Dressed in their black formal Filkharmonic attire, they become the filksingers extraordinaire, staging a cappella performances of their filksongs at SF masquerade intermissions to the delight of their audiences. The L.A. Filkharmonic have sung on "Hour 25"; a Los Angeles based Science Fiction talk show on listener sponsored radio KPFK. They also perform for "fan cabarets" (talent shows) at science fiction conventions. Their repertoire is extensive, performing such songs as:

Brush Up Your SF (And They'll All Kowtow)

There is Nothing Like a Droid

Bantha Herds in the Sand

Vader of Sith

Pop Goes the Death Star

In the mundane world, the L.A. Filkharmonic appear as: JoAnn Christi-art student, Meg Garrett-Library Systems Specialist, Marj Hoyt—secondary school teacher, Doris Robin—elementary school teacher, Marcy Robin—elementary school teacher, Nick Smith—book dealer, Karen Trimble—secretary, L.A.P.D., and Anne Wilson—Internal Auditor, Bank of America.

PROFILE

We hope the few examples we put in this issue will inspire some of the rest of you to write and sing your own filksongs. If any of you have written any sterling examples of filksongs, and would like to share them, please send us a copy. KR, MG

On Tatooine

By Meg Garrett
(to the tune of "Camelot")

A law was made a distant moon ago here,
No plant will ever show a leaf of green.
And there's never been a single flake of
snow here,
On Tatooine.

The sandstorms blow December
to December,
And not a drop of rain is ever seen.
The Bantha herds go crazy each
September
On Tatooine.

Tatooine, Tatooine, I know it sounds a
bit bizarre,
But on Tatooine, Tatooine, that's how
conditions are.

People never leave their houses after
sundown
Whole families have been known to
disappear.
In short, there's never been
A less appealing scene,
For happily-ever-aftering than here on
Tatooine.

Tatooine, Tatooine, I know it gives a
person pause
But on Tatooine, Tatooine, there are no
legal laws.

Your droids will fail from dust
contamination,
There is never any water for
your bath.
In short, there's never been
A less appealing scene,
For happily-ever-aftering than here on
Tatooine.

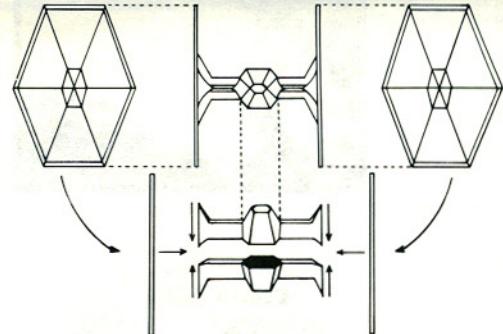
The Jawas scavenge every mile
of wasteland
Even though the pickings usually
are lean.
Three meals a day—all you can do is
taste sand,
On Tatooine.

HOW TO MAKE A TIE FIGHTER HOLIDAY ORNAMENT

Damian Broussard won 13th place in the model category of the 1981 STAR WARS Saga Creativity Contest with his homemade egg carton TIE Fighter. Among several uses, the TIE Fighter can be a Christmas tree ornament.

Damian's instructions require common household materials, an empty egg carton, cardboard and toothpicks, and common building materials such as glue, rubber bands, markers, ruler, scissors and a pencil.

1. Start with the body by taking the egg carton and removing one of the center egg cups from the bottom by cutting on both sides along the top of the curve of the bordering cups. 2. Repeat. 3. Place two cups lip to lip and glue them together, fastening the body with rubber bands until the glue is dry. Note: You may not be able to find egg cartons exactly like Damian's but most egg cartons will work.



We hope you enjoy making the egg carton TIE Fighter. If you have easy to make STAR WARS projects and would like to share them with us, please send them to the fan club. MG



4. While the body is drying, cut two hexagonal pieces of cardboard to 6x4 1/2 inches (approximately) and color with black markers as shown. 5. Once the body is dry, draw the cockpit on the front with a black marker, then poke two small holes under it with the toothpick. 6. Color the toothpick with a red marker, break it in half, then insert the toothpick into the holes leaving the tips out.

7. Next, cut pieces of cardboard to enclose the ends of the body. 8. Once dry, glue the wings to the body. With a little practice, you can embellish the TIE Fighter with small hexagons of cardboard.

The towns are hives of scum
and degradation
(Lots of aliens with blasters,
looking mean)
It's a risk to walk the streets of
Tosche Station
On Tatooine.



Members left to right:
Marj Hoyt, JoAnn Christi, Karen
Trimble, Doris Robin, Anne Wilson,
Marcy Robin, Meg Garrett, Nick Smith

Calvin Ogawa, IMAGICS

Tatooine, Tatooine, I know it sounds a
bit bizarre
But on Tatooine, Tatooine, that's how
conditions are.

Sandpeople lurk in every
other canyon
When angered even womp rats
will attack
In short, there's never been
A less appealing scene,
For happily-ever-aftering then here
on Tatooine.

Tatooine, Tatooine, I know it gives a
person pause
But on Tatooine, Tatooine, there are no
legal laws.

The greatest place is at Mos Eisley
spaceport,
Where you can get a ship and
blast away.
In short there's never been
A less appealing scene
For happily-ever-aftering than here
on Tatooine.



RENEWALS

Members with 1981 expiration dates, it's time to renew! Your renewal forms have been mailed.

1982 is going to be a very exciting year. We hope you decide to stay with us through our first-hand coverage of *REVENGE OF THE JEDI* Production and to enjoy the new special products such as silk-screened fan club member T-shirts using the Ralph McQuarrie *BANTHA TRACKS* logo. Remember, when you renew, you'll receive four more issues of *BANTHA TRACKS* and two very special Ralph McQuarrie decals. We will have new renewal items for 1982 and a new *JEDI* kit in 1983.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

In response to our members' concern over the 4 to 8 week delay caused by bulk or third class mail, the fan club will now mail all special products first class or airmail. This may increase costs slightly, but will insure a far swifter delivery of your special products. Also, the fan club sets aside quantities of all limited edition products for our overseas members.

RAIDERS one-sheets were a popular item. We sold out of them rather quickly. There are plans to have more one-sheets in the future.

May the Force Be With You!

Maureen Garrett, Director



KUMI



There were over 110 costumes at the 39th World Science Fiction Convention's Masquerade, many of which were *STAR WARS* costumes. The 71st costume was Commander Luke Skywalker by Paul Cullen. Paul Cullen's Skywalker costume received a standing ovation. Why? He was riding a Tauntaun!!!

The Tauntaun costume, constructed by Aletta Vett, was made of chicken wire, paper mache and fake fur. Luke's legs were covered foam sewn to the body, leaving Paul's real legs to animate the Tauntaun. The effect was complete with the proper accessories: comlink, light-saber, blaster and belts.

Paul and his friends stage *STAR WARS* presentations at their local children's hospitals, benefits, parades, and schools. "Anywhere there's a lot of kids," says Paul.

Member Paul Cullen, of Chelmsford, MA.
in his prize-winning costume—
Commander Luke Skywalker and Tauntaun.

How to write us:

Editorial correspondence, new membership fees, pen pals, actor fan mail, costuming guidelines, club information.

Official *STAR WARS* Fan Club, P.O. Box 2202, San Rafael, CA 94912. When appropriate send a self-addressed stamped envelope to help ensure a quick reply.

Subscription problems, membership renewals, product fulfillment inquiries: Official *STAR WARS* Fan Club, Customer Service Dept. P.O. Box 163, Mt. Morris, IL 61054.

To Change Address: Official *STAR WARS* Fan Club, P.O. Box 163, Mt. Morris, IL 61054. Please allow 6 weeks for change of address to take effect. The date of the last issue of your current subscription appears at the center of the top line of the newsletter mailing label. Please attach the actual mailing label or a copy of the label when writing about service renewal or change of address.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

New members will receive the *EMPIRE* kit, which contains a poster, six 8 x 10 color photos, a decal, and other ESB items, and a year's subscription (four issues) to *BANTHA TRACKS*.

New membership fees are \$5 (\$6 Canada, \$7 foreign); renewals are \$4 (\$5 Canada, \$6 foreign). Canadian and foreign members must order using international bank drafts or money orders made payable in U.S. currency. Please do not send cash.

FORCE NUMBERS

Your force number can be found on the upper-left portion of your mailing label. Please include this Force number at all times when writing the Fan Club.

PEN PAL SERVICE

If you are interested in having a pen pal, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the Fan Club. Please write "Pen Pal" on the outer envelope.

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STAFF

editor
MAUREEN GARRETT
columnists
KEN ROWAND,
ANITA GROSS, MARY PATERNO
art director
RIO PHIOR
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PREVIEW OF FEBRUARY 1982 ISSUE: A SALUTE TO RALPH MCQUARRIE

REVENGE OF THE JEDI PRE-PRODUCTION PART III

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